

flexible endoscope, the operating capsule being sized so that, when in an operative position entirely located within a body lumen adjacent to a selected portion of tissue to be resected structural integrity of luminal tissue is maintained, the operating capsule including a suturing assembly and defining a cutting zone adjacent to the suturing assembly; and

*C
C
C
C*

a tissue grabber drawing the selected portion of tissue into the cutting zone, wherein the suturing assembly fastens together portions of tissue adjacent to the selected portion of tissue.

44

44. (Amended) A system for resecting tissue from within a body lumen, comprising:

- a flexible endoscope;
- an operating head including a coupling structure for selectively coupling to the endoscope, the operating head including an anvil and a stapling mechanism moveable with respect to one another between a closed position in which the anvil and the stapling mechanism are adjacent to one another and a tissue receiving position in which the anvil is separated from the stapling mechanism, the operating head being sized so that, when in an operative position entirely located within a body lumen, structural integrity of luminal tissue is maintained;
- a flexible sheath extending from a proximal end of the operating head so that, when the operating head is in an operative position within a body lumen, a proximal end of the flexible sheath extends out of the body lumen; and
- a control handle coupled to the proximal end of the flexible sheath.

49

49. (Amended) A method for resecting tissue from within a body lumen, comprising the steps of:

- a. inserting an operating head coupled to a flexible endoscope into a body lumen via a naturally occurring body orifice, wherein the operating head includes an anvil and a stapling mechanism;
- b. advancing the operating head over the endoscope within the body lumen to a desired position relative to a selected portion of tissue to be resected, wherein, when in the desired position, the entire operating head is received within the body lumen;